

# The Witcher Netflix: Damage Control

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The Witcher Universe means a lot to me. As I'm writing this I can already hear the Witcher 3 opening music in my head. It all started a year and a half ago. The world was still in limbo, still trying to weasel its way out of Covid-19. I had absolutely nothing to do and I made one of the best gaming decisions of my life. I bought the Witcher 3. Today, almost 3 play-throughs later of this incredibly humungous 100+ hour long sprawling open world experience, and after reading through the entirety of Sapkowski's complex, morally compelling and sinisterly satirical books like a bible, I feel qualified and passionate enough to talk about something that disappointed me immensely.

The Witcher Netflix Series is unfaithful, uninspired and it is standing on its last legs. Season 1 was fine on its own but Season 2 took one step forward and 5 steps backwards. Season 2 was not well received and did not generate the surprisingly fantastic numbers that Season 1 did. It is fair to say that the third season could turn out to be the most significant season yet. Not only because the rash and impetuous Netflix execs would not think twice about cancelling the series if it turns out to be a disappointment, but also because more harsh deviation from the source material could alienate a lot of the fandom. That is the last thing I want because I really want this series to be great. This isn't an ultimate series critique. This is more pretentious than that. It is my best attempt to course correct the series while also highlighting the problems that have plagued the show so far. I am not trying to tell the writers what to do and this isn't a rewrite of seasons prior. Instead, this is a presentation of my vision of Season 3; Or in other words, blatant fan fiction. I will start by writing about the crimes seasons 1 & 2 commit and towards the end I will try to resolve these issues and give my vision for the future of the series.

If you've made it this far, it probably means you care about what I have to say so Thank You. This article will contain spoilers for the Netflix show, the books and potential spoilers for season 3.

## Season 1: A successful failure

**Season 1** of the show is based on the first two books in Sapkowski's series of eight books. Namely, The Last Wish and The Sword Of Destiny. These two books serve as an introduction to our wonderful protagonist Geralt Of Rivia, a mutant monster hunter that has more morality and humanity than most humans in Sapkowski's world, and many other significant and magnetic characters. I use the word 'magnetic' literally. I always feel drawn towards every character. Every character is unique, interesting and I can never get enough of the dynamics between them. This is where the show fails but The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt succeeds monumentally. In the show, the world does not feel nearly as interesting and complex as it should be. Season 1 is disjointed, chaotic and often stumbles on its own path.

As frustrating as it may be, I actually enjoy the first season. It absolutely has problems that plague Season 2 as well but it is a decent watch. In other words, it gets the job done. In a way, I feel for the writers and understand some of the choices in Season 1 because *The Last Wish* and *The Sword Of Destiny* are not easy books to adapt. The first two books are a collection of short stories that introduce characters, establish the world and lay the groundwork for more straightforward and linear narrative driven books. Adapting short stories and turning them into a season of television that also has to be linear is an exceptionally hard task, a task the season ultimately fails at, but still manages to keep me from disliking it. It is also no secret that the first season had '76 million member households watch it in its first four weeks', making it an all-time high for Netflix at the time.

The first season has a lot of issues but I want to discuss issues that have beset the whole series so far and how those issues can be resolved in Season 3. The first, most obvious issue, is Cirilla Fiona Elen Riannon, *The Lady of Time And Space* and *The Princess Of Cintra*. Ciri is an incredible character and her journey in the books is that of heartbreak, torment and tragedy. She endures through unbelievably cruel circumstances only because of her love for Geralt, the father figure, and Yennefer. Her morality is tested time and time again but she never gives in completely only because she cares about Geralt and Yennefer. She is one of the most powerful beings in the world but all she wants is to be with Geralt and Yennefer. Geralt and Ciri's father-daughter relationship is the driving force of the books. That is what keeps the story going and that is what keeps the reader reading. Their sweet and relatable relationship was first established in the wonderful short story '*Sword Of Destiny*' where they were introduced to each other in brokilon forest while Ciri, only ten years of age at the time, was on the run from an arranged marriage. Over the course of the story they grew closer and formed a relationship. A relationship that wasn't destiny, it transcended it. It was something more. I believe that is one of the most, if not the most, important short stories in the first two books. The Netflix show skips the whole story and as a result the only foundation of their relationship ends up being destiny and nothing more.

That is my biggest issue with Season 1 and it continues in Season 2. There are other issues here but most of those are prominently worse in Season 2.

## **Season 2: A prosaic, unfaithful and unbridled mess**

I don't want to sound harsh but Season 2 of *The Witcher* Netflix is one of the worst adaptations I have ever seen. It is adapted from the third book in Sapkowski's *Witcher* saga called *The Blood Of Elves*. The book is the first of five linear narrative driven books. *Blood Of Elves* isn't among my favorite books in the series but it is still a very important piece in Sapkowski's wonderfully intricate puzzle. The first two books are mostly centered around Geralt Of Rivia and the stories are told from his perspective. It is the first book that features multiple perspectives from different characters and it is an intentionally slow paced book with little to no stakes. It takes time to expand the world, the mythos and the lore while also progressing Ciri's story. Obviously, the show can't afford to be low stakes or too slow paced so they were always going to take risks. However, they don't take calculated or smart risks. Instead, the writers go out of their way to make the worst decisions possible and deviate so much that by the end of Season

2 it doesn't even feel like The Witcher. It feels like a generic fantasy show that is a bad adaptation trying too hard to be edgy. This season commits a lot of crimes and makes Season 1 look worse. There are so many things this season does wrong and if I mentioned everything this already long article would be neverending. So, I will stick to the worst offenses.

Yennefer Of Vengerberg, the half elf hunchback that became one of the most beautiful and powerful sorceress in the world. Yennefer is one my favourite characters ever. She is smart, strong, sophisticated, morally conflicted, manipulative, magnetic and drop dead gorgeous. The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt captures her perfectly. One of the reasons I've played that game multiple times is Yennefer's presence. Season 1 of The Witcher Netflix actually captures Yennefer rather well by expanding on her past and giving her a backstory that was only hinted at in the books. It takes away her enigmatic aura but I still liked what they did with the character for the most part. Unfortunately, season 2 completely, utterly and disastrously ruins it. She doesn't feel like the sophisticated, calm and powerful sorceress. Yennefer feels like an angry and edgy teenager that can't stop swearing. She is also graced with some of the worst dialogue in the series.

'Hate' is a strong word but I honestly hated everything they did with her character in Season 2 not only because of her portrayal but also because of her relationship with Ciri. I stressed on this before but Geralt and Yennefer are the most important people in Ciri's life and her relationship isn't developed with either of them. In the Blood Of Elves, there is a whole chapter dedicated to developing Yennefer and Ciri's relationship. Yennefer teaches Ciri how to use and control her powers and they go from disliking each other to forming a mother-daughter bond. It is one of my favorite chapters in the whole book series. In the show, instead of developing a relationship between them, the writers make Yennefer want to sacrifice Ciri. That is not only an awful decision but also a big slap in the face of the book readers. That choice doesn't even make sense if you haven't read the books. It does not add anything to the story and serves little to no purpose. It just comes across as inconsistent. This is the same Yennefer that went really far just to save a child she didn't even know in Season 1.

Ciri is perhaps going to be the most important character going forward but the writers just can't figure her out. Her character lacks depth and is totally bland. Blood Of Elves is essentially about Ciri learning, growing and attaining skills before her journey(that kicks off in the next book) starts. She trains at Kaer Morhen, spends time reading and writing at the temple of Melitele and finally learns how to use her powers from Yennefer. All of this happens over a couple of months and she uses all her skills to survive in later books. In the show, all we see is Ciri training at Kaer Morhen and it barely lasts for a week. Another major crime they commit with Ciri is her Elder Blood. Elder Blood is a very complex concept in the books that would take ages to explain thoroughly. So in short, Ciri has the extremely rare and powerful Elder Blood in her veins and she is believed to be the last person to have it. Only a few people in history have had pure Elder Blood and that's one of the reasons she is special. The show acknowledges that she has The Elder Blood. It also acknowledges that It is very rare. Then it proceeds to reveal that Witchers are created with the help of Elder Blood too. That the trial of the Grasses( the experiment potential witchers go through), is done with the help of Elder Blood. Not only is this revelation completely lore-breaking but it also doesn't make sense inside the world they've created. There are about ten Witchers hanging around Kaer Morhen in the show while in the books there are

only four. How much of the exceptionally rare Elder Blood was spilled to create nearly a dozen Witchers? This totally ridiculous idea would've worked if they had less Witchers but they couldn't even execute their own terrible idea coherently.

The next major crime season 2 commits is the world building and the geography. IT IS ALL WRONG. Characters travel from one part of the world to another in the span of minutes. The show jumps between locations without establishing the boundaries. It took two and a half books for Geralt to travel from one place to another in search of Ciri. The show just makes the characters teleport from one place to another without care. The world itself is interesting at first glance but lacks depth or character. Political drama and intrigue is a big part of the world in the books and the games but the show could not make it engaging or interesting enough. In the world of The Witcher, nothing is ever black and white. Nothing is ever as simple as right or wrong. There is no good or evil force. It's all grey. That is the very essence of Sapkowski's world. The perfect example of this is one of the most celebrated Quests in a video game ever, the bloody baron quest in the Witcher 3. That whole quest is pure artistry. The sort of art I had never experienced before and I never will. I won't spoil what it is about because you need to experience it for yourself. It is essentially a series of events that occur based on the player(Geralt)'s choices. There are no right or wrong choices but both choices make the player feel like they've done something wrong. No choice is rewarding because the game asks you to choose between one evil or another. The world of the Witcher and Geralt's role in it is packaged wonderfully in the very famous quote *"Evil is Evil, lesser, greater, middling. makes no difference. The degree is arbitrary, the definition blurred. If I'm to choose between one evil or another, I'd rather not choose at all."*

The show clearly doesn't follow this philosophy very well. It understands it, it just never follows it. The show feeds you that Nilfgaard is evil. That Vilgefortz is evil. That Humans are terrible for how they treat elves. It also portrays The Emperor of Nilfgaard Emhyr Var Emreis as someone that orchestrates child murders. Emhyr is a selfish bastard in the books, but he is also an incredible emperor, a fantastic tactician, a genius and a stout leader. A lot like Tywin Lannister in Game Of Thrones. (Fun fact: Charles Dance, the actor that played Tywin Lannister, also voiced Emhyr in The Witcher 3 Wild Hunt). He is always willing to go far to get what he wants but he would never order children getting massacred. Emhyr isn't a good person but he is not evil either.

Nilfgaard is fascinating in the books. Book characters hate Nilfgaard because it is powerful, tactical and slowly taking over the North. However, when you think about it, even though Nilfgaard's regime is rooted in dictatorship, it is never tyrannical. Folk are generally a lot more content and civilized under Nilfgaard and the economy in Nilfgaard controlled regions is strong. The flipside to that is War. Nilfgaard orchestrates War. Emhyr is not afraid to turn his allies into his enemies if it befits him and he isn't afraid to risk destabilizing the whole world by raging Wars. Wars that bring death. Wars that bring raping and pillaging. Wars that breed Wars.

The show is nothing like this. It doesn't even have an ounce of Political intrigue and it rarely questions one's morality.

## Season 3: A New Hope

I have to clear something before I start. I don't want the show to be 100% faithful. I really don't care about that. Expecting a literal translation of the books would be foolish of me. TV is different from books and games. All I want is for the Show to feel like the Witcher, to capture the essence of the world and the characters. Changing book content to service the story is completely valid and I encourage it unless it takes away what makes the source material special in the first place. The showrunner Lauren Hissrich has responded to criticism and she is aware of the backlash season 2 received. I appreciate her determination to want the show to be better. I also appreciate that she engages with the fans even though some of the fanbase can be quite toxic. I wish her and the whole team the very best of luck for season 3.

Season 3 of The Witcher will be adapted from the fourth book in the series, The Time Of Contempt. It is one of my favorite Witcher books because It kicks the whole story off. The later books explore the consequences of what happened in this book. It is the most important book in the series in my opinion and Season 3 will be equally important to the show. This is also a relatively easier book to adapt. I won't be getting into specifics and I'm not going to write about every single plot point. I will mostly talk about how the problems of Seasons prior can be fixed this season and how to faithfully adapt this book. I wrote this in only a few days so the whole thing could be pretty rusty and in need of work. It also isn't a literal translation of the book. I have changed quite a lot of things to service the story.

I am not the showrunner, but if I was, the first thing I'd do is change the format from 8 episodes per season to 10-12 episodes per season. That would not only ensure further exploration and understanding of the world but also the characters and their dynamics.

## Episode 1: Fixing Yennefer and Ciri's relationship.

The season kicks off with Yennefer and Ciri, several weeks after the events of the awful Season 2 finale. Yennefer is training Ciri and they're on the road to the City of Gors Velen. They engage in conversation and it is clear to see that Ciri holds a grudge against Yennefer for trying to sacrifice her. Yennefer being Yennefer is condescending but also feels sorry for what she did. They both fill the audience in through dialogue that they're travelling to Gors Velen and then to Aretuza to enroll Ciri. Ciri doesn't want to study at Aretuza but Yennefer is firm. Ciri has been training and studying under Yennefer for weeks, even before the journey started. They talk about Geralt, about Ciri's powers and then get on with their journey. We see Ciri trying to control her powers but managing to destroy a huge empty tent instead. There's a montage of them travelling and training. Of Ciri finding it hard to control her powers, not being

able to perform a particular move. Of Yennefer smiling at Ciri when she isn't looking. Of them coming across bodies hanging from trees on the road to Gors Velen. This is the beginning of their relationship.

We see Geralt in Hirindum, a place 15 miles west of Gors Velen, with the bard Jaskier. He doesn't know Yennefer and Ciri are near Gors Velen. He meets Codrigher and Fenn, two shady lawyers who run a detective agency. They provide exposition about Ciri, her elder blood, Ithlinne's prophecy, about why Emhyr wants Ciri and other unexplained plot points in Season 2. They also give Geralt and Jaskier lodging in exchange for Geralt's Witcher services.

Yennefer and Ciri reach Gors Velen, a massive city. Yen and Ciri engage in some banter. Yennefer refers to Ciri as my ugly duckling. They go to The Gors Velen Bank and meet Molnar Giancardi, the overweight dwarven bank owner. He explains the world's political situation and provides more exposition. He also gossips that there's been mention of a milky haired Witcher near Hirundum. Ciri insists on exploring the city and Yennefer agrees after persistence. Vivaldi sends an intern to go with Ciri.

Codrigher and Fenn ask Geralt to get rid of an Ekkimmara, a lower vampire that's been prowling the area. Geralt agrees. Him and Jaskier have a conversation about Destiny and Geralt and Ciri's connection. Fenn eavesdrops on the conversation. Geralt also talks about how Ekkimmara is a lower class of vampire driven only by bloodlust and without conscience, unlike higher vampires. After the conversation, Geralt gets ready to set off to hunt the Ekkimmara.

Ciri and the intern explore the huge chaotic marketplace swarmed with people. They happen upon a loosely caged wyvern being advertised as a basilisk. Ciri corrects the merchant in charge of the show, one thing leads to another and the wyvern cuts through the cage. Ciri's Kaer Morhen training comes naturally and impulsively to her. There's an action scene and she slays the wyvern but instead of getting the credit the guards blame her for the mess and run after her. She loses them among the huge crowd but is met by three sorceresses. Margarita , Tissaia De Vries and Yennefer.

## **Episode 2: Fixing Emhyr and other side characters. Establishing the conflict.**

This episode picks up with Emhyr in the presence of Steffen Skellen, some other important Nilfgardians, Cahir, Rience and Fringilla. He orders Cahir, Rience and Fringilla to go to the Isle of Thanedd for the Thanedd Ball. Thanedd Ball is the massive event thrown by sorcerers and sorceresses of Aretuza. Emhyr believes Cirilla will be there. He orders them to bring her to Nilfgaard. Emhyr also feels guilt about ordering the murder of Francesca's elven baby. He talks to Fringilla about it in private. She assures him that he did the right thing because he only did it for reasons of state. He also tells Fringilla and Cahir that catching Ciri at the Isle of Thanedd is their last chance at redemption. This keeps in line with Emhyr's season 2 reveal while also painting him as less of an evil man. I know the show made a big deal out of Emhyr revealing loudly that Ciri is his daughter. I just want to retcon that a bit. The audience already knows that Emhyr is Ciri's daughter and many characters know too but the whole world doesn't know yet. Codrigher and Fenn theorise about it to Geralt but he doesn't accept it.

Ciri, Yennefer and the sorceresses from Aretuza are in a sauna. They chat about Ciri, about her powers and her enrollment in Aretuza. They also talk about the rumors about Ciri and Emhyr. Ciri isn't having any of it. She argues with Yennefer and still doesn't forgive her. She doesn't want to go to Aretuza and desperately wants to see Geralt. Margarita orders Ciri to get some towels while they discuss something about a mysterious room at the top of a tower in the isle of thanedd that they were forbidden to go into when they were novices. Ciri leaves the Sauna, goes to the counter and asks about the way to Hirundum. She gets on her horse and starts galloping towards it.

It is nighttime. Geralt is searching for the Ekkimara's lair by following the tracks. He works out through the footprints and mutilated dead bodies that it might not be an ekkimara. He hears twigs crunching. He looks around and finds nothing. He hears footsteps and unsheathes his sword. The Ekkimara is running towards him. There's a fight. The Ekkimara wounds Geralt and disappears. Geralt searches for the Ekkimara but decides to call it a day because it isn't a simple Ekkimara, it is a mutated one and requires more preparation.

Ciri is galloping through the dark forest. She can see the Isle Of Thanedd in Aretuza. It is dark. There's rain, followed by lightning and even more intense lightning. She can see a rider in a bird of prey helmet following her. She tells herself that it isn't real. She gallops even faster. Dark clouds appear but the moon is clear as a crystal.. The horse snorts and neighs but Ciri gallops faster and faster. The moon shines even more. Spectres in black armor galloping along the moon appear. The Wild Hunt. Ciri hears voices and tells herself that none of it is real.

We pick up with Cahir and Fringilla. They provide exposition about the Thanedd Ball, about how exquisite and enormous it is. They also talk about Francesca and her indirect involvement in the creation of the Scoia'tael, elven rebels fighting for nonhuman freedom. A rumor of a portal in the isle of thanedd through time is also mentioned by Fringilla.

Emhyr is having a private audience with Francesca. He assures her that he had no part in the killing of the elven baby and what Francesca did( murdering human babies in rage) is unforgivable and he threatens her. He asks Francesca to aid his mission of abducting Ciri by sending the Scoiatal to the Isle of Thanedd and in return he will pardon her and give her Dol Blathanna if she continues to serve him. Francesca agrees.

Geralt is having the famous Toussaint wine Est Est with Jaskier. They talk about how good the wine is and Jaskier babbles on about how he slept with the duchess of Toussaint once. Geralt seems uninterested, looking instead into the darkness, clearly worried about Ciri and hears hooves.

Ciri gallops faster but the spectres get closer and closer. Lightning intensifies. The horse snorts loudly, clearly out of breath. She kicks the horse and continues galloping. The Wild Hunt gallops across the sky and towards Ciri. Ciri collapses. Geralt runs towards her. Jaskier is terrified. Codrigher and Fenn hide. Yennefer appears through a portal. She uses everything in her power to protect Ciri and the Wild Hunt disappears.

### Episode 3: Fixing Ciri and Geralt's relationship.

Ciri is lying down on the bed, seemingly asleep. Geralt is sitting beside her, holding her hand. Yennefer is standing against a wall. They talk about the information they've gained so far, about Emhyr, Ciri's significance and the Thanedd Ball. Yennefer wants to go to the ball, not only because it is necessary for her, but also because she believes it is important to enroll Ciri at Aretuza so that she can control her powers. They argue about enrolling Ciri in Aretuza. After talking some more, they share a kiss but are interrupted by Codrigher. He is terrified but Geralt assures him he doesn't have to worry about The Wild Hunt anymore and promises him to take care of the Ekkimara problem instantly. Ciri, who had been eavesdropping the whole time, cuts in and expresses her desire to go with him to hunt the Ekkimara. Geralt is against the idea. They argue and decide through a game of rock, paper, scissor. Ciri wins the game and Yennefer smiles. Yennefer clearly read Geralt's mind and gestured Ciri on how to win the game. Geralt agrees on the condition that she is only allowed to join in when the Ekkimara is weak.

We pick up with Tissaia and Vilgefortz on the isle of Thanedd. They talk about the Thanedd Ball and their plan to get Ciri. Vilgefortz mentions Ciri's elder blood. Tissaia isn't fully sold on the idea mostly because she cares about Yennefer. Vilgefortz manipulates Tissaia. He tells Tissaia that Emperor Emhyr has asked him to get Ciri but he wants her for himself. For the greater good. To stop the wolf's blizzard, the white frost and the end.

Francesca and Filavandrel are arguing. Filavandrel warns her about pledging alliance to Emhyr. Francesca is calm. She asks Filavandrel to have faith. Filavandrel doubts her again, asking if it really is the right thing to send the Scoia'tael on a mission that doesn't concern them at all. He talks about learning from mistakes. He talks about saving the elven race. Francesca once again asks him to have faith.

Geralt and Ciri are in the woods, training. Geralt explains how an Ekkimara can be killed. About higher and lower vampires. Geralt critiques Ciri's sword play, asks her to correct things. They talk about Yennefer. Ciri mentions that she didn't like her at first but she has helped her a lot. Geralt smiles and tells her that's how Yennefer is. He also tells her that he knows Ciri won the rock, paper, scissor game unfairly. Ciri laughs. They both laugh. They hear nasty noises coming from deep in the woods. Geralt unsheathes his sword and orders Ciri to stay back. Ciri ignores him. She tells Geralt how she slew a Wyvern in Gors Velen. Geralt is frustrated and tells her not to take risks like that and that a mutated Ekkimara is far more dangerous. They slowly follow the tracks, the noise gets louder. Geralt takes a few Witcher potions. The Ekkimara jumps at them.

Phillipa Eilhart, Tissaia and Margarita in Aretuza are in a meeting with Triss, Keira Metz and Sabrina Glessvig through projections. Tissaia warns them about Ciri, about how important it is for them to talk



Yennefer into handing her over to them. Phillipa cuts in and talks about her suspicions about Tissaia and Vilgefortz's plan to take Ciri for themselves. Phillipa wants Ciri to be at Aretuza so she can be trained and then used by the sorceresses. An argument breaks out and all of the sorceresses say their part. Tissaia commands the room and calms them down.

Geralt and Ciri fight the Ekkimara. Geralt shouts at Ciri to stay back, gets distracted for a split second and the Ekkimara knocks him down, gets ready to strike but Ciri cuts through its stomach. The beast howls. Geralt gets up. The fight continues. Ciri gets hurt but continues on. Geralt uses the Aard Sign, knocks the Ekkimara down and deals the lethal and finishing blow. They both lie down, tired. Geralt tells her that is the life a Witcher lives. Ciri embraces it. He thanks Ciri for saving him. Geralt talks about destiny and what could've been if he never went to Cintra and asked for provoked the law of surprise. He mentions how glad he is that he did because he has her. He also tells her how scared he is. Ciri continues to be sassy and hides emotion. After a while, Geralt chops the head of the Ekkimara, hangs it by his horse and they ride off.

***I won't be talking about every single plot point from here on out. I believe these 3 episodes fix most of the issues that plagued the previous seasons. Everything from here is mostly payoff of things I tried setting up before. I won't be talking about how to adapt the the whole book because my idea was always to fix the problems while telling a compelling story faithfully.***

## **Episodes 4 and 5: Delivering on the promise**

The episode opens with Geralt, Jaskier and Ciri arriving at the isle of thanedd. Ciri is in her room with Jaskier. Geralt asks him to take care of Ciri while him and Yen are at the Ball and the feast. They attend the feast. It is elegant, the food is incredible but in a small amount. The hall is humongous. Everyone tries their best to look sophisticated but it comes naturally to Yen. Geralt overhears sorceresses talking about him and Yen. Most of what he hears is inappropriate. Geralt grows frustrated because he can hear the sorceresses and their remarks because he has super hearing. They meet Triss, Phillipa and Dijkstra, and many other sorceresses and important people. Geralt, quiet enough to be considered sophisticated and loud enough for most people to hear, declares, "I love you, Yen." Yen says it back. Vilgefortz intervenes and asks Geralt to accompany him. Yennefer nods. He takes Geralt into a gallery filled with art. Different canvases and paintings depicting Lara Dorren, Falka and Ithlinne's prophecy about the white frost. Vilgefortz explains the prophecy and Falka's story to Geralt. He also subtly hints at Ciri. They share their views on politics and religion. Vilgefortz comes across as arrogant. He offers Geralt to join him. He tells him that they can change the world together. Geralt, clearly annoyed, declines and leaves. Vilgefortz tells her he is making a big mistake.

Geralt and Yennefer are in their room, making love, passionately and romantically. They say I love you to each other, the whole scene is cut together with Ciri having nightmares about them getting killed and a knight in a bird of prey helmet chasing her.

The next morning, Geralt finds himself alone in the room. He goes out for a piss and all hell breaks lose. He finds sorceresses, spies and informers having a violent disagreement. Keira Metz casts a spell on him and he faints. Triss holds his head. He gathers enough energy to say Ciri and Yennefer. Trois takes her outside and casts healing spells on him.

Yennefer and Ciri are with Tissaia, Phillipa, fringilla and other sorceresses. Ciri, in a trance, talks in Elder Speech, repeats Ithlinne's prophecy and prophesizes the death of Geralt and Yennefer. Tissaia holds out a hand to Ciri. The scoiatal archers attack on one side and Nilfgaardian soldiers attack on the other. Rience appears. Ciri collapses. Yennefer picks her up and runs. Geralt gains consciousness and runs towards the fire. Fighting and killing many soldiers and scoiatal along the way. Dijkstra blocks his way with his men. Geralt slashes through them and breaks Dijkstra's leg. Ciri gains consciousness. There is fire everywhere. Arrows are flying. The clanking of swords can be heard. Yennefer and Ciri run but Yennefer is blocked by a fallen pillar. She urges Ciri to continue. Ciri is being chased by a knight in a winged helmet, the one she had nightmares about. She runs like never before. She hides under a tree, waiting for a scoiatal unit to pass by. She is seized by a Nilfgaardian but before he gets the chance to do anything, Geralt appears. He hugs Ciri, tightly and his eyes get watery. 'I.....I...I L' Ciri utters in a cracking noise. 'I know. Let's go' replies Geralt. They run. Rience goes after them. Geralt deals with Rience and asks Ciri to carry on. She runs and falls into an arena. Cahir and a Nilfgaardian unit surround her. She unsheathes her sword and lashes at them, wounding them but not killing anyone. She overcomes her fear and knocks Cahir down, gets ready to strike but doesn't kill him. She runs. Geralt appears. The Nilfgaardians attack him, he slashes through them. He takes off Cahir's helmet and surprised at what he sees, leaves Cahir alone.

Geralt, Yennefer and Ciri get reunited. Yennefer, seeing nowhere to escape, urges them to get to the tower, for there may be an unstable portal at the top of the tower that could help Ciri escape. They fight their way through. They get on a bridge. Vilgefortz, Rience and a Nilfgaardian unit chases them. The bridge collapses. Yennefer and Ciri look at each other. Ciri uses the very move she had trouble getting right while Yennefer was teaching her. This time she gets it right. Rience and the Nilfgaardians fall. Geralt, Yen and Ciri get to safety. They reach the tower. Vilgefortz chases them. He almost seizes Ciri but Yennefer uses an immense amount of energy and knocks Vilgefortz down. Yennefer collapses. Ciri holds her hand. Yennefer uses the last bit of energy she has to say "I love you, my daughter. NOW RUN." Yennefer faints. Ciri runs like the wind towards the tower. Geralt stands in Vilgefortz's way. They fight. Geralt feels powerless for the first time in a fight but he fights on. Vilgefortz breaks his knee and leaves Geralt on the edge of death. The sorceror runs towards the top of the tower. Triss appears before Geralt. She sits beside him in a pool of blood and teleports him out of there. Ciri runs towards the portal. Vilgefortz watches as she disappears into a portal and the portal closes.

## Closing thoughts

The final few episodes mostly center around Cirilla in Korath Desert, starved and dying of thirst, and Geralt in Brokilon Forest resting and healing through the help of dryads and befriending a character called Milva, the legendary archer. I won't spoil what happens in the desert because it's my favourite chapter from the whole book series. By the end of season 3, Ciri joins a bandit group called The Rats and falls for a girl called Mistle. Geralt sets off to find Ciri along with Milva and Jaskier. Vilgefortz hands a Ciri imposter to Emhyr. Emhyr figures it out but let's the world believe the lie while sending his own units to find Ciri. Tissaia, after getting deceived by Vilgefortz and being consumed by guilt, commits suicide. There is no sign of Yennefer. The season ends.

I changed quite a bit from the Time Of Contempt but I tried my best to keep the essence of the world and the characters alive. This was probably a laboriously long and very rough read but if you've made it this far, Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I really appreciate it. I put a lot of heart and passion into this. Here's to hoping Season 3 turns out to be amazing.